

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IOE-00 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 OIC-02 OMB-01

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7640

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2235

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNSC, PFOR

SUBJECT: ROLE AND PREROGATIVES OF SECURITY COUNCIL

PERMANENT MEMBERS

REF: USUN 2135

1. US, UK AND FRENCH MISOFFS HELD MEETING TO DISCUSS PRESERVATION OF PREROGATIVE OF PERMANENT MEMBERS TO SERVE ON VIRTUALLY ALL UN BODIES. DISCUSSION HELD IN CONSEQUENCE FRENCH FAILURE TO BE ELECTED TO HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION.

2. WE DISCUSSED WIDE-RANGE OF POSSIBLE ACTIONS THAT COULD BE TAKEN TO MINIMIZE CHANCES OF RECURRENCE OF FAILURE OF PERMANENT MEMBER TO BE ELECTED. POSSIBLE ACTIONS DISCUSSED INCLUDED:

A) ENHANCED EFFORTS GET WEO GROUP PRESENT AGREED SLATES OF CANDIDATES;

B) EFFORTS TO OBTAIN EC-9 COMMITMENT TO MAINTENANCE OF PERMANENT MEMBER PREROGATIVE;

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C) LOBBYING IN CAPITALS FOR SUPPORT OF MAINTENANCE OF PERMANENT MEMBERS' PREROGATIVE;

D) FRANCE, UK, US CASTING BALLOTS RESTRICTED TO PERMANENT MEMBERS THUS AT LEAST NOT HELPING ANY NON-PERMS TO BEAT OUT A PERMANENT MEMBER;

E) DECISION BY PERMANENT MEMBERS TO FOREGO VOLUNTARILY FROM TIME TO TIME THEIR CLAIM TO BE ELECTED TO SOME BODIES;

F) US DECISION TO BECOME FORMAL MEMBER OF WEO GROUP;

G) NEED FOR ALL OF US TO STEP UP OUR LOBBYING ACTIVITY ON BEHALF OF OUR CANDIDACIES FOR VARIOUS BODIES TO INSURE THAT WE DO NOT LOSE BY DEFAULT;

H) NEED TO REVIEW UPCOMING ELECTIONS AND FOCUS ON POSSIBLE PROBLEMS.

3. DISCUSSION OF ABOVE TOPICS WAS LIMITED TO PRELIMINARY RUN-THROUGH. GROUP AGREED TO FURTHER MEETING AM, MAY 26, AT DCM LEVEL FOR MORE DETAILED EXAMINATION OF THESE AND OTHER POSSIBLE ACTIONS.

4. AT SAID FURTHER MEETING WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD SUPPORT DESIRABILITY OF: (A) THOUGH RECOGNIZING DIFFICULTY OF ITS ACHIEVEMENT; ENCOURAGEMENT ANGLO-FRENCH EFFORTS TOWARD (B); SUPPORT HIGHLY SELECTIVE EFFORTS UNDER (C); REGARDING (D) CONCUR IN DESIRABILITY OF SHORT BALLOTS WHERE NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE SO LONG AS ACTION KEPT STRICTLY SECRET SINCE, IF IT LEAKED, NON-PERMS WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO RETALIATE MORE EFFECTIVELY. WE BELIEVE (E) IS HIGHLY INADVISABLE SINCE WE CAN ENVISION NO RATIONALE FOR DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN POSITIONS PERMANENT MEMBERS WOULD KEEP AND THOSE THEY WOULD YIELD AND BELIEVE IF PERMANENT MEMBERS ADMITTED OF POSSIBILITY OF DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN WHICH BODIES PERMANENT MEMBERS' PREROGATIVE APPLIED TO AND WHICH IT DID NOT OTHERS WOULD INEVITABLY ARROGATE UNTO THEMSELVES RIGHT TO MAKE DECISION FOR PERMANENT MEMBERS. STRATEGIC RETREAT WOULD END UP WITH SAME RESULT AS IF WE REFUSED TO BUDGE AND LOST. WITH REGARD TO US DECISION TO BECOME CONFIDENTIAL

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FORMAL MEMBER OF WEO GROUP, BOTH BRITISH AND FRENCH MISOFFS EMPHASIZED THAT THEY THOUGHT IT WOULD MAKE AN IMPORTANT DIFFERENCE IN THAT IT WOULD GREATLY ENHANCE OUR VOICE IN WEO SLATES DECISIONS AND THUS STRENGTHEN COMMON POSITION OF PERMANENT MEMBERS. MISOFF QUERIED WHETHER OUR CURRENT ATTENDANCE AT AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL AT WEO GROUP AND OUR PARTICIPATION IN DISCUSSION THEREIN DID NOT GO A LONG WAY TOWARD MEETING THESE NEEDS WHILE AVOIDING POSSIBLE

RESENTMENT OTHERS MIGHT FEEL IF WE OPTED FOR FULL MEMBERSHIP. MISOFF STATED THAT IN ANY EVENT WE SHOULD NOT BE SEEN TO BE TAKING SUCH A STEP AS REACTION TO RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS ELECTION EPISODE. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE IT IS PREFERABLE FROM OUR IMMEDIATE POINT OF VIEW FOR US TO RETAIN CURRENT POSITION VIS-A-VIS WEO GROUP IN THAT IT TENDS ENABLE US HAVE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS. (BRITISH AND FRENCH CLEARLY MORE VULNERABLE THAN WE ON THIS WHOLE AREA AND THEY KNOW IT). IF, HOWEVER, BRITISH AND FRENCH PRESS US TO BECOME MEMBERS AND INDICATE RESENTMENT AT OUR HESITANCY, BELIEVE PRICE FOR DECLINING TO BECOME FORMAL MEMBER MAY EXCEED BENEFITS UNDER CURRENT SITUATION. IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES WE WOULD RECOMMEND JOINING GROUP. SHOULD WE DECIDE TO ACCEDE TO BRITISH-FRENCH PRESSURE TO JOIN GROUP WE WOULD REQUEST BRITISH AND FRENCH TO TALK TO OTHER WEO'S URGING OUR ENTRY SO OUR ENTRY WOULD ENGENDER NO RESENTMENT FROM ANY MEMBER OF GROUP. END COMMENT.

5. ONE THING THAT IS ABSOLUTELY CLEAR IS THAT WE CANNOT AFFORD COMPLACENCY WITH REGARD TO ELECTIONS INVOLVING US CANDIDACIES OR CANDIDATES. IN THE NEXT SIX MONTHS US WILL BE UP FOR ELECTION TO ECOSOC AND WILL HAVE A CANDIDATE, STEPHEN M. SCHWEBEL, FOR THE ILC. PRESUMABLY TROUBLE IN THE ECOSOC CONTEXT IS EXTREMELY UNLIKELY BUT THE ILC MAY NOT BE QUITE AS EASY. THERE ARE TOO MANY WEO CANDIDATES FOR THE AVAILABLE SLOTS. BASED ON THE REFUSAL OF WEO GROUP TO NARROW LIST OF CANDIDACIES FOR ICJ LAST YEAR, EVEN THOUGH EXCESS OF CANDIDATES CLEARLY JEOPARDIZED WEO SLOT, WE SEE LITTLE LIKELIHOOD OF SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION OF CANDIDATES FOR ILC. MOREOVER, IN THE PAST THERE HAVE BEEN PUBLIC GRUMBLINGS BY OTHER GROUPS ABOUT THE PERMANENT MEMBERS PREROGATIVES IN ILC CONTEXT. BENNETT

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